

TO: Jim Garrison.
FROM: Steven J. Burton, Citizens' Committee of Inquiry
SUBJECT: David R. Kroman, Attorney (Minneapolis)

SUMMARY:

On December 5, 1967, I stepped into the office of the Los Angeles Free Press. I overheard a man tell the receptionist, "My name is Kroman". I immediately asked him if he was David Kroman of Minneapolis and he replied in the affirmative. I then introduced myself.

In the course of our discussions lasting over 3 hours, the following information was noted by me as elements in Kroman's theory of the assassination:

- It was originally planned that Kennedy be killed in Washington, D.C.
- H.L. Hunt was involved before the fact (Kroman interviewed Hunt on tape (1½ hours) in 1965)
- Cities involved include Dallas, New Orleans, Miami, Washington D.C., Kansas City, and Las Vegas. Also someone in Minnesota.
- Three men were positioned with guns on the grassy knoll (he claims to have interviewed one of those who are involved (on tape) to substantiate this.)

Of particular importance to him was whether Garrison knows of a witness who pegs Oswald as a Russian double agent. He flatly refuses to speak to Garrison unless he knows and names this witness.

Kroman stated that, as an attorney, he believes that he has enough evidence to convict several people if the witnesses cooperate. He claims to have the names of several gunmen, one of whom is known to be alive, though not in the U.S.

However, there is a question as to whether Kroman is completely sane.

KROMAN'S INVESTIGATION:

Kroman claims that the original plan was to kill Kennedy in Washington, D.C.

The people involved are all of right-wing persuasion, including extremely high government officials (He has no evidence implicating Johnson before the fact). Included are H.L. Hunt and some of Kroman's former enemies in the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota. He claims to have interviewed H.L. Hunt in 1965 on tape in this connection.

Kroman also claims to have interviewed William Whaley and Earlene Roberts before their deaths. He also says he has interviewed one of the planners of the assassination who told him that three men were behind the fence on the grassy knoll in approximate positions marked on attached photograph marked "A".

Cities involved in the assassination include Dallas, New Orleans, Miami, Washington, D.C., Kansas City, Las Vegas, and Minneapolis.

Kroman says that Oswald was undoubtedly working for the CIA although he also was a Russian double agent..

Kroman states that his investigation is near completion. His trip to Los Angeles dealt in some way with people in Long Beach. He does not know what he will do with his information when he completes his work. He is highly concerned for the safety of his wife and 16-year-old boy as well as his brother and his family. He realizes the importance of exposing the case but is fearful anyway. He believes there will be a nuclear war within 1 1/2 years unless something is done. He questions that humanity may be worth saving even though it was pointed out that he cannot be the judge of that. When asked what he will do, I heard him reply at different times 1) name names on a radio show and immediately leave the country, 2) expose it from the safety of a foreign country, 3) give the information to Garrison if Garrison is on the right track.

He has arranged for the information to be released in the event he dies in any mysterious manner whatever. It is currently in safe deposit boxes. His wife and/or brother will call a press conference and a copy will be sent to Garrison.

RE: GARRISON

Kroman believes that Garrison is substantially correct. However he is hesitant about speaking with or giving information to Garrison. He said that if Garrison knows who a witness is who claims Oswald to have been a Russian double agent he may talk. However, he still appears hesitant because he has committed some

illegal acts in the course of his investigation.

Kroman considered it an affront when he was ignored by Garrison even after March 27 when the story on him was in all major newspapers. When I wrote to him last October, his reaction was, 'it is about time someone contacted me!'. His brother had the same reaction when Stephen Jaffe went to Minneapolis.

When asked if, as an attorney, he believed he had substantial evidence for convictions, he replied in the affirmative, assuming all witnesses would cooperate and testify.

When asked if Garrison would have any jurisdiction over those who could be convicted on the basis of his evidence, he replied that if Louisiana had a "All Service Process Act" he would. Also needed would be subpoena duces tecum.

Witnesses would have to come from Texas, Missouri (two, including a John Doe), California (one, very important), Washington, D.C. (seven, very important, government officials), and Minnesota (one).

MISCELLANEOUS:

Kroman stated that he was wearing a disguise when I saw him. He was 5'8", about 170 lbs., slightly overweight, puffy face with smooth skin, sandy, graying hair. General appearance was similar to Mickey Rooney.

When I heard that he was wearing a disguise, I immediately noticed that he was wearing a hairpiece and is bald.

Also present during some of the talk with Kroman were Raymond Marcus and Art Kunkin (Editor, L.A. Free Press).

SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS:

As Ray Marcus said, Kroman can be a plant, insane and wrong, sane and right, or insane and right. The first would be eliminated by me on purely impressionist reasons. The latter three are all possible.

If I had no background in the Kennedy assassination, I would say that Kroman is paranoid and insane. However, much of what he says dovetails with the findings of other investigators so I would not reject him without further information.

*Note: Not once did Kroman explicitly state, "This is what my investigation has turned up." All information was learned from passing references, some more explicit than others. It could logically be assumed that Kroman has more than what is contained herein.

Same thing?

FOLLOW-UP:

Kroman will leave Los Angeles Dec. 7. He did not say where he is going immediately (he drives to all places he goes). He wants to go to Dallas once more, although he is afraid he won't leave Dallas if he does.

Kroman may be reached through his attorney at the following address:

Jerome Daly
28 East Minnesota Street
Savage, Minn. 55378
Phone: (612) 890-2274

His address in Cleveland, Ohio (residence) is:

David R. Kroman
2940 Pease Drive
Rocky River, Ohio
Phone: (216) 333-2833

I suggest that, if Garrison has a witness who says Oswald was a Russian double agent, contact be made. However, this man is under great emotional stress, with many alternatives and many decisions to consider and thus cannot be expected to respond immediately and graciously.

This memoranda prepared by

Steven J. Burton
Steven J. Burton

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

(213) 766-1916
December 5, 1967

on KROMAN:

ADDENDA

After finishing the first six pages of this memoranda, which were written as soon as I could reach a typewriter, the following were recalled and should be added:

Kroman asked if a search of Shaw's residence was made and if anything was found that could be used to inflict pain on oneself. I replied in the affirmative to him and he noted that some of those in Minnesota were masochists and engaged in the infliction of pain by flagellation and other means.

He also mentioned that Shaw was not a homosexual, but a flagellationist. He has no evidence that Oswald was sexually deviant.

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Kroman, in my opinion, did not display a thorough knowledge of Dealey Plaza. He was interested in positioning the #5 man in relation to the TSBD and it was difficult to communicate the position to him, even with the use of photographs and diagrams. His own sketch of the fence, pergola, and trees was somewhat inaccurate. He stated that when he was in Dallas in January, 1967, the parking lot behind the wooden fence extended over what was once the extension of the wooden fence behind the stone wall.

SB 12/4/67